

Hrawi troops impose blockade on Aoun zone

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Troops loyal to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi clamped a tight blockade Friday on areas held by General Michel Aoun to try to starve him into surrender.

While Aoun remained defiant, panic erupted in the Christian enclave he partly controls. Residents rushed to stock up on food or left work to drive home in case of fighting.

Aoun, who has resisted attempts to besiege him for the past year, ruled out dialogue with Hrawi under the blockade.

"If they think they will bring the people to their knees with the blockade, they are mistaken," he told Al Anwar newspaper.

Aoun, who considers himself Lebanon's legitimate leader, survived last year's siege by Syrian and pro-Syrian forces. This time, the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia let Hrawi's troops take over LF positions inside the enclave, facing Aoun's mainly Christian regular troops.

Aoun lost control of two-thirds of his enclave in a bloody four-month struggle for supremacy against the LF this year.

Hrawi's troops crossed the green line between west and east Beirut at dawn Friday. About 100

soldiers took over three former LF checkpoints on roads inside the enclave leading to the heart of Aoun's territory.

It was the first time since the national army broke in half along sectarian lines two years ago that regular troops not under Aoun's command had entered the Christian heartland.

Witnesses said all crossings to Aoun's areas were closed to cars and food trucks from midday (0900 GMT) and hundreds of cars were turned back. Only Red Cross teams, deputies, diplomats, and pedestrians could pass.

The move tightened an economic blockade clamped by Hrawi's government July 30 against Aoun and his soldiers in pockets they hold in east Beirut and the neighbouring Metn mountains.

Supplies of flour, food and vegetables were banned from reaching Aoun's 200-square-kilometre zone Friday. Fuel supplies and money transfers had been banned for two months.

Hrawi's mainly Muslim troops earlier took over the coastal and mountainous crossings into Aoun's enclave from the Christians' main militia headed by Samir Geagea.

The peaceful handover put the

final seal on Geagea's allegiance to Hrawi, leaving Aoun ringed from all sides in his small pocket with no air, sea or land outlets.

Hrawi's government is giving the new siege two weeks to bring the maverick general to heel. If that fails, Hrawi's army backed by Syrian troops would attack to oust Aoun forcefully, several Beirut newspapers reported.

Among the main crossings taken by Hrawi's troops was the main coastal highway tunnel on the Dog River, 10 kilometres north of central Beirut.

Geagea's militiamen also handed over to Aoun's pockets from east Beirut's residential districts of Ashrafieh, Sin Al Fil and Dora.

The irregulars then withdrew to the walled command headquarters known as the War Council at the seaside district of Karantina.

There was no word on how many troops from Hrawi's estimated 20,000-man army were assigned to man the crossings into Aoun's zone.

They are permitted under the new restrictions to leave the encircled zone to Hrawi-controlled areas to escape the anticipated starvation.

Abu Abbas warns U.S.

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A hardline Palestinian leader vowed Friday to strike at American interests "all over planet earth" if any Israeli aircraft was attacked to enforce the air embargo of Iraq.

"America is the no. 1 terrorist country," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Mohammad Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), as saying.

"The U.S. administration's decision to impose the air embargo on Iraq is an overt act of aggression," Abbas said, "and it is an act of aggression against the United Nations — for a land, sea and air blockade of Iraq is an overt act of aggression."

Abbas, also known as Abu Abbas, said the PLF was blamed for the May 31 abortive attack on an Israeli beach which eventually led Washington to sever a dialogue it had initiated in December 1988, with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The PLO had sought to distance itself from the attempt near Tel Aviv, saying it had no prior knowledge of the plan.

Although no Israeli was hurt in the attempt, Washington still insisted that the PLO punish Abu Abbas by expelling him from the PLO's Executive Committee.

The dialogue was severed in June after the PLO appeared unwilling to bow to the U.S. demand.

INA said Ramadan told Abu Abbas that the United States and its Western and Arab allies in the Gulf should not underestimate the might of the Arab forces ranged against them.

"They have reached an advanced level in armament, human, material and economic levels," Ramadan said. But he said that Iraq has refrained from responding to the "aggressive and terrorist acts" by the American administration because it was still seeking a peaceful settlement.

"Iraq's non-retaliation to this clear and wide aggression affirms Iraq's serious keeness to seek peace and practical stances to achieve peace," he said.

"It is also to provide additional chances to avoid humanity the tragedies of war that the Americans and their allied aggressors are insinuating," the Iraqi official said.

Bush sends \$7.5b Saudi arms deal to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President George Bush has asked Congress to approve a \$7.5 billion arms deal for Saudi Arabia. The package includes missiles, tanks and other weapons to beef up the Saudi military.

Bush's arms sale proposal included 150 M-1A2 tanks, 1,750 advanced Tow anti-tank missiles and six Patriot anti-missile batteries, according to a formal request to Congress.

The package also included 200 Bradley armoured fighting vehicles, 12 Apache ground-attack helicopters, nine multiple-launch rocket systems, seven KC-130 tanker planes and 10,000 trucks, transporters and trailers.

In another development, House members hit snags when they sought to move ahead with a resolution backing Bush's moves in the Gulf crisis. The House Foreign Affairs Committee adjourned without action on a proposed resolution of support.

Representative Lee Hamilton, a Democrat, said a primary hang-up was lawmakers' nervousness that any congressional resolution might be seen as implicitly endorsing any future use of force by the United States.

"It's amazing," said a frustrated Representative William Brockmeyer, the senior Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee. "We can get approval through the United Nations for the president's actions, but not through the Congress."

As the resolution has gone through the drafting stages over the past three weeks, there have been echoes of the Tonkin Gulf resolution, a 1964 act that was seen as authorising widening U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

Committee Chairman Dante Fascell, a Democrat, sought to make it clear that the document would only approve Bush's actions so far in the Gulf crisis, and leave out any mention of next steps.

It voiced support for Bush's "emphasis on diplomatic efforts, international sanctions and negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations" to achieve the

goals of forcing Iraq out of Kuwait and restoring Kuwait's previous government to power.

Speaking of the Saudi arms proposal, Rep. Mel Levine of California, said, "This is a significant improvement."

Levine, a staunch supporter of Israel who had objected to an earlier \$21 billion Saudi arms package that also drew objections from Israel, said, "This is what should have been proposed in the first place."

Levine said lawmakers concerned about Israel's "security" support Bush's military moves to counter Iraq. But the earlier, larger arms sale proposal to be an attempt "to use the crisis as justification for sending items not needed for the crisis," he said.

At the U.S. Defence Department, spokesman Pete Williams said the proposed sale is "urgently needed."

But some supporters of Israel said there still was concern about offensive weapons included in the new package. They said those worries could be calmed if the administration comes up with a counterbalancing "security" package for Israel.

The administration has decided to divide the Saudi arms package into two parts. The first to meet immediate Saudi "defence" needs in the current crisis, including weapons that can be delivered from current stocks or quickly taken off the production line.

A second, \$14 billion package will be proposed in January to meet the country's longer-term needs.

The latter package will include F-15F fighter planes and more tanks, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The delay will give lawmakers more time to deliberate how the sale might change the military balance in the volatile region, Levine said.

At the same time, the administration has been discussing a new package of military aid to Israel and senior officials have promised to maintain Israel's qualitative military advantage over neighbouring states.

Ben Bella urges Arabs to rally behind Iraq

ALGIERS (R) — Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, appealing to nationalist fervour in a comeback bid after nine years' exile, urged Arabs Friday to rally behind Iraq and 'save the Third World from being crushed by the West.'

In his first news conference on Algerian soil since being ousted in a coup 25 years ago, Ben Bella described the Gulf crisis as the Third World's last stand.

He demanded President Chadli Benjedid appoint a new cabinet to ensure the country's first free general elections set for early next year were fair, and vowed to work for a broad "democratic front" among 28 newly legal political parties.

Ben Bella, a 73-year-old revolutionary war hero, stepped off the boat from Spain Thursday to a hero's welcome from several tens of thousands of chanting supporters.

"This (the Gulf crisis) is the most serious crisis between the North and the South," he told a packed ballroom at a luxury hotel he commissioned shortly after becoming president on independence in 1962.

"The Arabs have a historic role. If they are not down like the socialist world has been cut down I do not know what will remain of the Third World."

Ben Bella again urged Algerians to register at the Iraqi embassy by the hundreds of thousands to fight alongside Iraq if needed.

He evoked the heady days of Arab nationalism in the early 1960s and compared events in the Gulf to the 1965 Suez crisis, except that Western "aggression" against the Arabs — the troops and armour sent by Western states to the Gulf — was now total.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was now "too dependent on Western money to take positions contrary to the American strategy," he said.

Long an advocate of a new world order, Ben Bella drew cheers from supporters when he denounced Kuwaiti rulers and asked: "Until when will oil be

used by a family of sheikhs with \$200 billion in mostly Zionist banks?"

Thrown into jail and political oblivion by his Defence Minister Houari Boumedienne, Ben Bella is largely unknown to most of Algeria's young population and opponents wonder if he will be able to rally them despite his still youthful charisma.

Ben Bella said he was not coming back to settle old scores but to restore confidence between the people and the government.

"I hope we can achieve a true democratic front to reshape the political landscape...based on a common programme of national unity and democracy. That is what I will work for."

But he gave few indications of the political composition of such a front and made overtures to the rank and file of both the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) and the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) that won local polls last June.

Some political leaders both in and out of power see Ben Bella as a potential bulwark against the Muslim fundamentalists but he declined to exclude the FIS — as many liberals do — from the line-up of democratic parties.

A devout Muslim who never smoked or drank, Ben Bella has himself championed Islam as the basis of a more egalitarian political order in both Algeria and the world.

Bitterly attacking corruption and economic mismanagement under the FLN he said liberal economic reforms by the current government were throwing Algeria back to the days of French colonial concessions.

"They are in the process of killing the economy," he said, citing new incentives to foreign investment.

The programme of Ben Bella's own Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA) calls for a return to agriculture, neglected in 1970s industrialisation drive, setting up small industries and reforming education to bring it more into line with Arab and Islamic values.

Iraq says Kuwaiti emir, S. Arabia financed Israeli intelligence station

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's army newspaper Friday accused Israel and Egypt of setting up an intelligence station in the Naqurah desert to pick up data on the movement of Iraqi troops.

Al Qadissiya, quoting unidentified Arab sources, said the electronic and radar reconnaissance station was financed by the former rulers of Kuwait and the government of Saudi Arabia.

Another newspaper, the Al Jomhuriya, said Israel would be among targets struck in the "coming fire," for which it said the United States and its allies would bear responsibility.

One source told Al Qadissiya that the advanced equipment supplied by the American company Westinghouse would monitor the movement of Iraqi troops in Kuwait and Iraq's electronic warfare equipment in order to "devise effective counter-measures."

Al Qadissiya said the station is also provided with a multiple

sensor system that can identify and locate Iraqi units and can monitor their movement.

According to the Arab sources, an Israeli military delegation has recently visited Cairo to coordinate the operation of the station, which would have American technicians and experts.

It said that the former Kuwaiti ruler, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has given the Egyptian government \$300 million to set up the station, while Saudi Arabia and the United States contributed \$200 million to finance the purchase of the equipment in the station.

Al Qadissiya said that the station also would be capable of monitoring the movement of troops in Libya and Yemen.

The daily said the Iraqi army owned powerful hardware and electronic warfare equipment to counter the radar and other reconnaissance.

Al Jomhuriya said Iraq would not be sole battlefield in a war against the United States and other forces assembled in the region since the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

An editorial said "The battle arenas would be multiple and the fires would devour all oil fields, the Zionist entity and agents of America in the region."

"The invaders and their traitor stooges and Zionists who are adding oil to the fire to ensure their aggressive presence on the Arab land bear full responsibility of the coming fire," it said.

It said Iraq, "which is standing in the forefront of the Arab Nation and the Islamic World for ousting foreign occupation forces from the sacred Arab lands and restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, is ready to offer all sacrifices that guarantee non-submission to the hegemony of American imperialism."

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UNRWA running out of funds

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The U.N. relief agency looking after Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories said Friday it was running out of cash because of the Gulf crisis.

Giorgio Giacomelli, commissioner general of the U.N. Works and Relief Agency (UNRWA), said he wanted money earmarked for countries supporting the blockade of Iraq to go to Palestinian refugees who oppose it.

His organisation had already used up its \$35 million emergency fund.

"We are in the red," he said, adding he was dipping into the agency's regular budget to make up the shortfall and was worried about further contributions to those reserves.

The loss of \$120 million in remittances from Palestinian workers in the Gulf, some of whom had returned home, was also straining UNRWA's finances.

"More people are coming to press for more services," Giacomelli told Reuters in an interview.

He appealed for more international aid and said he hoped Western and Arab states would not cut money to Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who support Iraq.

"I hope this political aspect of (support for Iraq) will be analysed and evaluated in its own right and that the reasons for it would be understood," he said.

Palestinian leaders criticise Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. But they accuse the West and some Arab states of double standards in sending troops to try to end an occupation but doing little to get Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza.

Giacomelli said countries which stood to lose from Gulf crisis seemed to have been allocated a large slice of financial aid.

"I hope it would be considered that even if... the Palestinians are not a country in the technical sense they are part and parcel of this social, economic and political reality and will have to receive their share."

He said the Gulf crisis coupled with the 33-month-old uprising

had heightened tension in the 27 refugee camps he runs.

"This is not the time to cut interim assistance to the refugees. We have no money left in the emergency fund," he said.

The emergency fund, which provides food and medical care for refugees affected by the revolt, was \$10 million short this year, he said.

Giacomelli said he was also worried about future contributions from the Gulf states who account for three per cent of UNRWA's ordinary \$250 million annual budget.

Although the surge of international aid at the start of the uprising had tailed off there was a greater understanding — particularly in Europe — of the frustration felt by Palestinians, some of whom have been in camps since 1948.

"The Gulf crisis is going to shake up the whole Middle East and make it necessary to tackle the main issue — the Palestinian question," he said.

Israel has objected to Britain's plans to set up a permanent cen-

tre for teaching English in the occupied Gaza Strip, an Israeli official said Thursday.

At issue is Israel's insistence the all activities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip be done through the Israeli military government, the Hebrew daily Maariv reported. The paper said officials fear an independent centre could amount to indirect recognition of Palestinian independence demands.

A foreign ministry official declined to give details of the dispute but said Israeli and British officials were discussing the proposed centre.

"We're quite sure it will be resolved in the next few days," he said.

Ivan Callan, the British consul, said he did not expect disagreement over the sit in Gaza City would turn into a major dispute.

He said the British Council has been offering educational programmes in Gaza since the 1940s. They focus on teaching English and informing Palestinians about schools and scholarship opportunities in Britain, he said.

Israel's new hero — a bank bandit

TEL AVIV (R) — A motorcycle bandit who has held up 20 banks in 20 months has become a popular hero among Israelis who admire his bold, cool style, resent their banks and think the police are incompetent.

He did it again Thursday, raiding a suburban Tel Aviv bank and eluding the red-faced cops on his powerful, bright red motorcycle.

So great is the fame of the nameless "cycle-bank" that Yoel Marcus, a political commentator for the august newspaper Haaretz, recently designated him "sportsman of the year."

He slips in and out of banks in 90 seconds, firing a single, harmless shot in the air with his silver .38-calibre revolver and taking money from just one teller.

His motorcycle can top 250 kilometres per hour. But he stops at red lights, even when he knows he is being chased.

"Wow, what a guy!" exclaimed 12-year-old Leon Bassan, who witnessed a robbery. "Twenty times he drives the police mad and they still can't catch him. He has found a livelihood and is mocking the whole country. Wow, he has brains."

The popular tabloid Hadashot told its readers that public interest showed "how many men are dying to be the motorcycle thief — and how many women

would drink aftershave to get his telephone number."

Police Minister Ronni Milo deplores the cycle-bank cult. "For some of the public, this case arouses sympathy," he says. "We must remember this is armed robbery."

But many Israelis hardly think of him as a thief. He has stolen more than \$150,000 but after all, they ask, who's hurt? Banks are insured.

An elite detective unit has been working round the clock to catch the cycle-bank thief.

"The key word is patience. And we have it, believe me," one detective said. "He is fighting us one-on-one here. In the end we will put him on the line with handcuffs on."

Government-owned television aired a children's show comedy routine this week about police chasing the bandit.

Police thought they had their man at last after Thursday's hold-up when a motorcyclist collided with a patrol car and tried to flee. Police chief Yacov Turner made a special trip to Tel Aviv for the triumphant press conference.

The suspect, it turned out, ran because he had no driver's licence. "The rumours were premature," Turner lamented.

Other bikers have started wearing stickers that read: "I am not the thief."

Hurd, Velayati meet after resuming relations

UNITED NATIONS (R) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, met for 30 minutes Friday, the day after their two countries resumed diplomatic relations, British diplomatic sources said.

They expressed pleasure at the restoration of relations after an 18-month break, discussed details of the reopening of embassies in London and Tehran, and also reviewed the Gulf crisis, the sources added.

Velayati said a letter from Hurd stating that Britain respected Islam had broken the diplomatic ice.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, speaking on British television, said he favoured reestablishing relations between Iran and the United States.

"I would personally be in favour of (the United States) reestablishing relations with Iran for the whole balance in the Middle East," he told British Broadcasting Corporation television.

Kissinger, known for his high-pressure shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East during the 1970s, said: "I think Iran will find it because of the past, more difficult to have diplomatic relations with us than with Britain. But we are on the way to settling the claims

between our two countries."

"I hope that we will follow the path that Britain has taken within the next few weeks or months. I think (today's) development certainly indicates the moderate group in Iran has carried the day."

The restoration of diplomatic links between Britain and Iran holds out fresh hope for British hostages held in Lebanon and for writer Salman Rushdie, who is under a death threat imposed by the late Ayatollah Khomeini.

The future also looks brighter for British businessman Roger Cooper, who has been held in Iran since 1985 on spying charges which he denies.

Hurd, commenting Thursday's rapprochement announced at the United Nations, said the move was another brick in the diplomatic wall against Iraq.

Bilateral problems between London and Tehran could now be discussed, Hurd told reporters in New York, adding: "High on that list is the influence which the Iranians can bring to bear of those who hold the hostages in the Lebanon."

In the past Britain has said the question of hostages, Cooper and Rushdie was an obstacle to relations. "There have been too many obstacles, I believe that we are closer to moving the obstacles, the foreign secretary said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:30 News Summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:50 Local programme
22:30 News in English
23:10 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 Documentary
19:30 News in French
19:15 Documentary
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 Encounter
21:30 Classical music
22:30 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "The George McKenna Story"

PRAYER TIMES

04:46 Fajr
05:23 (Sunrise) Duha
12:36 Dhuhr
14:51 'Asr
17:28 Maghrib
18:46 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 71331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 685226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Slight drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Izzat 659999
Dr. Yousef Rashed 893301
Dr. Mufced Tannous 894480
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabre 775050
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 67055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimoun pharmacy 637660

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Izzat 659999
Dr. Yousef Rashed 893301
Dr. Mufced Tannous 894480
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabre 775050
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 67055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimoun pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843462
Traffic Police 893390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

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Home News

World leaders meet to discuss children

AMMAN (Petra) — For the first time ever, some 60 world leaders are meeting today at the United Nations headquarters in New York, not to discuss politics, but to discuss children.

The event, the World Summit for Children, provides a unique and unprecedented opportunity for the world's leaders, from all over the world, to discuss children and look into the best means for improving their living conditions.

The conference, held at the initiative of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden, aims at drawing the world's attention, at the highest levels, to the common rights, concerns and problems of children, and at ensuring their public commitment to place children high on the national agendas and to find the best means for improving their living conditions.

The conference, the first of its kind in human history, seeks to set a new global priority when drawing up policies and making allocations, because "they are the future of the world and its decision makers, and as such they should be given the opportunity to grow to their full potential and to receive the necessary protection at all times."

The summit will discuss the opportunities available for saving children, through cost-effective methods, including immunisation, Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT), breast feeding as well as other low cost measures which can save the lives of millions of children who die of preventable diseases.

The Jordanian delegation to the conference will be headed by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

6,000 Indians return home on EC flights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) has organised eight unscheduled flights from Queen Alia International Airport to India to transport Indian evacuees who had been stranded in Jordan after arriving here from Kuwait and Iraq.

A report by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that EC head of delegation here Christian Falkowski supervised the process of repatriation of a large number of Indian nationals on these flights Thursday.

Falkowski was quoted by Petra as saying that the EC has undertaken the task of repatriating Indian nationals by supplying aircraft and that so far 6,000 have been repatriated under this programme.

Arar delivers message to Libyan leader

RIPOLI (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Leiman Arar, who heads a Jordanian parliamentary delegation to Libya, has delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

At the meeting, which was attended by the delegation members, the Libyan leader emphasised his support of Jordan's and urged the Libyan and Jordanian parliaments to coordinate their work in a manner that would bolster ties between the two countries.

Arar and the delegation members briefed the Libyan leader on Jordan's stand with regard to developments in the region, stressing on the inherent danger in the foreign military presence in the Arabian peninsula.

Arar is accompanied on the trip by Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Shammud Dardour, Mohamad Alawneh and Fakhr Karar.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed items and place with the concerned institutions.

- ### EXHIBITIONS
- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off Had Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
 - Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.
 - Plastic art exhibition at the Jordan Plastic Art Association.

Prince Hassan urges U.S. Congress to support Gulf negotiations

WASHINGTON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who is now in the United States, Thursday met with members of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee to discuss the Gulf crisis and Jordan's efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the issue.

Prince Hassan called on Congress members to support direct negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait as provided for in U.N. Security Council Resolution 660 so as to find a political settlement to the crisis, and stressed that the Security Council had highlighted the Arab League's mediation efforts in this issue.

Later the Prince met separately with the chairmen of house committees responsible for the armed forces, the Middle East and Europe and of the House of Representatives' Appropriation Committee with whom he reviewed developments in the Gulf and Jordan's stand.

He explained economic difficulties encountered by Jordan as a result of its commitment to the sanctions imposed on Iraq in implementation of Security Council Resolution 661.

Prince Hassan called for speedy efforts to end the Gulf issue which, he said, has been endangering security and peace in the Middle East, and said that all the region's issues must be settled.

CAA chief says resolution 670 concerns only cargo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Queen Alia International Airport officials said Friday that they had handled three Iraqi Airways flights from and to Baghdad, two in the morning and one at noon Friday, all for the benefit of passengers evacuating the Gulf region.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, the airport officials confirmed a statement by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) director Mahmoud Balqaz that Jordan was strictly abiding by U.N. Security Council resolution 670 imposing an air embargo on the flight of cargo to and from Iraq and Kuwait.

CAA director said Thursday evening that Jordan was allowing passenger flights but no cargo except for humanitarian shipments of food and medicine.

Balqaz told Jordan Television that Security Council resolution 670 covers cargo and not passenger flights to Baghdad. He said that Iraqi Airways planes would continue to come to Jordan as long as they carry only passengers and as long as they are subject to inspection.

Underlining Jordan's commitment to the resolution, Izzeddin told the Jordan Times that Jordan realised that the resolution was mandatory and the government of Jordan would therefore adhere to it.

Under resolution 670 the Security Council confirmed that its sanctions applied to all aircraft, and said that states should deny permission to any aircraft to take off from their territory if the aircraft carried cargo, other than humanitarian food or medical supplies, to Iraq or Kuwait.

It said that states must also deny any aircraft, whatever its port of origin, permission to overfly its territory if its destination was Iraq or Kuwait. Exceptions are for planes willing to land and permit cargo inspection.

Jordan seeks new agricultural strategy to ensure food security

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has set certain markets for its agricultural produce in the Gulf states as a direct negative impact of the Gulf crisis, but there is no need for worry as a new agricultural strategy will be adopted to deal with the situation, according to Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat.

"Jordanian exporters have complained to the ministry and to the Jordanian authorities about obstacles they have been meeting in marketing their produce, but the government will try to find alternatives that would help the agricultural sector boost its production and increase exports," the minister said at a meeting of the Higher Agricultural Council attended by the ministers of water and irrigation, education and municipal and rural affairs and the environment.

The meeting reviewed the role of agriculture in Jordan in the light of the Gulf crisis and several working papers, submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture, the University of Jordan, the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO), the Jordan Cooperative Organisation and the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers' Association, were reviewed, according to a statement following the meeting which took place Thursday.

The working papers emphasised the need for Jordan to have a new agricultural strategy to deal with the consequences of the Gulf crisis, to focus attention on the production of strategic crops like cereals and animal feed, to increase livestock and dairy production and small domestic industries, according to the statement.

The working papers, said the statement, dealt also with means that could be used for exploiting state-owned land, and the prospects of implementing agricultural cropping patterns in rain-fed and irrigated regions and to cut down on the production of vegetables for the time being.

According to the minister, the new strategy will take into consideration all possibilities that could face the agricultural sector in the wake of the loss of certain markets, especially in the Gulf states, and will aim at ensuring food security under the present circumstances.

He said that a special food security committee had been set up to study the present agricultural situation, to work in cooperation with the Higher Agricultural Council and to work out agricultural plans that should be ready in a few weeks' time.

Before the outbreak of the Gulf crisis Jordan had expressed confidence it would sell JD 140 million worth of crops to European and Gulf states during 1990. The assumption was based on the Kingdom's total sale of JD 53 million worth of crops to these countries in the first five months of 1990.

Society seeks world support for peaceful Gulf solution

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Society of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War had sent an appeal to the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) on August 27 requesting a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and an immediate withdrawal of all foreign military forces.

In response the Jordan Society of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, received an emergency appeal regarding the Gulf crisis from Dr. Bernard Lown, a Nobel prize holder of 1985 for his great efforts and contributions towards international peace. Dr. Lown, who is at present, the president of the IPPNW, emphasised in his appeal that the Gulf crisis presents an unprecedented threat to human life with the reported presence of 450 nuclear warheads on U.S., French, British, and Soviet vessels.

In his emergency appeal, Mr. Lown says that the presence of weapons of mass destruction combined with massive troop mobilisations create an explosive time bomb awaiting detonation.

Dr. Lown calls on all IPPNW affiliates to obtain declaration and statements from moral, religious, spiritual, political, and cultural leaders from every country to give active support in order to avert a catastrophe in the Gulf, and these leaders should appeal in their declarations to the leaders of the U.S. France, Great Britain, the USSR, and the Gulf region to:

1. Remove all nuclear weapons from the region immediately.
2. Publicly pledge to no use of any weapon of mass destruction in the region.
3. To support the U.N. and rely upon a negotiated and mediated settlement of the current crises as the only humane, moral, and life-preserving act of conscience and responsible statesmanship.

These declarations should clearly identify the author, his/her position, and address (Nobel laureates, church and religious leaders, artists, writers, athletes, statesmen and women, medical school deans).

Charity helps refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Caritas Society has provided 5,000 blankets, 500 tents in addition to daily meals to evacuees in Ruweisheh, Azraq, Andalus and Marj Al Hamam camps, the society director Mousa Adeli said Thursday.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Adeli said that the society has contributed JD 100,000 towards the construction of social service units in Madaba district, that is 40 per cent of the total costs of the units. The remaining costs were provided by Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund.

Adeli added that the society also contributed JD 350,000 to partly finance costs of construction of social service centres in Mafrq Governorate. He noted that Caritas Jordan works in close cooperation with other voluntary societies in Jordan, and that it is helping support more than 1,000 poor families in various parts of Jordan.

On the establishment of Caritas in Jordan Adeli said that it was established in 1967 after the June war of 1967, with the aim of providing relief aid to the displaced and needy people. However, he noted, the society organises rehabilitation activities for women, such as training courses on sewing, embroidery, flower arrangement, and handicrafts.



Women demonstrate in Amman (within International Red Cross Bureij refugee camp in Gaza Strip (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



premises) to protest against Israel's arbitrary measures taken in

Women stage protest against Israeli arbitrary measures in Gaza Strip

By Sana Atiyeh

AMMAN — With world attention focused on the Gulf crisis, a few hundred Jordanian and Palestinian women attempted to refocus attention on events in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip by staging a sit-in at the International Red Cross premises Friday to protest against Israel's arbitrary measures in the occupied territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Some 250 women, many dressed in Palestinian embroidered gowns and black and white chequered headscarves, sang national songs and yodded as others carried banners calling attention to the Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

"Yes to the United Nations forces to protect the women and children of Palestine," "We demand the trials of Israelis who commit daily crimes against Palestinian children," and "Jordanian women strongly condemn the brutality committed by the hands of Zionists against Gazans in the refugee camps," read some of the banners held up by young women.

The women called on the United Nations to send troops to the Israeli occupied territories to protect Palestinians from the occupation authorities' collective punishment. In a petition read out by the President of the Palestinian Women Federation Issam Abdul Hadi, the women demanded immediate action by the international community to protect Palestinian human rights.

The sit-in, organised by women organisations in Jordan, was mainly to protest against the Israeli measures taken against the Palestinians in the Bureij refugee camp in Gaza in the last ten days. After an Israeli reserve soldier was killed in the camp, the Israeli authorities have cracked down hard on the residents of the camp with collective punishment.

According to the petition addressed to the U.N. secretary-general, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens approved to deport "the suspects," and to demolish 32 houses, shops and gas stations in Bureij camp, which has been under a ten-day curfew.

"The cruel suppression campaign continues for the ninth day while Bureij remains isolated from the rest of the world and the camp is running short of food supplies and milk for children," the petition stated.

"The Israeli authorities have used the killing of the Israeli soldier, who was attacked by the residents of Bureij refugee camp after his car hit two Palestinian children, to launch an unprecedented barbaric suppression campaign against the people of the Gaza Strip since 1967," Abdul Hadi said, reading the petition.

Abdul Hadi said that according to one resident who was able to leave the camp, the situation there had become tragic. The petition quoted the Gaza as saying: "after living under occupation for 23 years and witnessing many painful tragedies, the practices of Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens' soldiers have been most savage. They represent the peak of the tragedies that have befallen us."

Abdul Hadi added that the witness, resident of Bureij camp, reported collective punishment methods, including the rape of women, breaking bones of Palestinians, destruction of property and throwing out furniture in the streets.

The women called on immediate dispatch of international supervision missions to the occupied territories to carry out investigations into the "crimes perpetrated against the Palestinians in the Bureij camp and the Palestinian human rights and to put an end to the ongoing suppression."

The petition stated that Israeli practices constituted a "blatant violation of human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention, and a flagrant challenge to the international community."

"Israel is defying the international community's will and violates all the international conventions and laws, and it practices terrorism and repression against the Palestinian people. The Israeli authorities are encouraged by the political support and cover provided by consecutive American governments in contrast to the strict measures taken against Iraq," the petition said.

The women demanded that the dispatch of U.N. troops to protect Palestinians under Israeli occupation must be followed by the convening of an international peace conference to find a solution to the Palestinian people's plight.

The women stated that the conference should find solutions "to end Israeli occupation and enable the Palestinians to return and exercise self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in their national homeland."

The crowd, who chanted pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli, anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans, also demanded that solving the Gulf crisis be linked with the Palestinian issue.

Cabinet adopts revised civil servants regulation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has recently adopted the revised civil servants regulation which included amendments to the provisions of the 1988 regulation.

The revised regulation was drawn up and endorsed by the Cabinet to bridge some of the gaps and shortcomings contained in the civil servants regulation no. 1 for the year 1988. The revised law addressed such issues as following certain criteria for calculating practical experience for the employee after obtaining his scientific degree, according to legal advisor of the Civil Service Commission Hilmi Al Sabari.

Surabi said the amendment specifies that the employee can get one year raise for every year of experience in a government job before being classified.

For non-government jobs, he said, the employee will get one year raise for every two years of experience if the employee acquired his experience in the Kingdom and the same if acquired it in a government job abroad.

He said the amendment also entitled the employee to a one-year raise for every two years of experience if he obtains the tawjihi while working at the official institution. He said the amendment includes in the system employees who get the tawjihi certificate while working at the institution if they were not included in the civil servants law no. 23 for the year 1966.

Surabi said the amendment provides for classifying the employee according to the highest degree he obtains while a government employee.

The amendment also provides for including employees who are transferred into the civil servants' system and for preserving their rights, Surabi said. The transferred employee, Surabi added, passes into the civil servants system with the same salary and in the same class he used to occupy before the transfer if he does not have the tawjihi certificate.

Jordan's embassy continues to operate in Riyadh with reduced staff

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Nasser Al Bataineh, who returned to Amman Thursday after being recalled by the Jordanian government, says he could go back to Riyadh any moment at the request of the Foreign Ministry in Amman and affirmed in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times Friday that he was still head of the Jordanian mission which continues to operate with a reduced staff.

Bataineh was recalled Tuesday in protest against the closure of Jordan's military attaché's office in Riyadh and an enforced cut down in the number of Jordan's diplomats stationed in Saudi Arabia. The Foreign Ministry here has described the Saudi move as unjustified.

Bataineh told the Jordan Times that a total of 24 diplomats and attaches will have to leave within a week's time in response to the Saudi Arabian request, leaving a total of 10 staff members behind.

"Jordan's embassy in Riyadh is only to have four staff members plus the ambassador, and the Jordanian consulate in Jeddah is to have a similar number, in accordance with the Saudi request," Bataineh said.

He said that as a result of the Saudi Arabian request Jordan will have no cultural, military and labour attaches left in Saudi Arabia.

Bataineh estimates the total number of Jordanian expatriates working in Saudi Arabia at 200,000, they, he said, are still working there and to date nothing happened to obstruct their presence in Saudi Arabia.

He said that Jordan's decision to recall him to Amman was a manifestation of protest against Riyadh's moves, but he hoped that this measure would be only temporary and he would be ready to return to his post as soon as he is requested by the Jordanian government.

Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin said Wednesday the recalling of the Jordanian ambassador did not mean a break in diplomatic relations with Riyadh, and "Amman does not plan to take a tit-for-tat measure."

The Saudi move to expel Jordanian diplomats was coupled with a cut off in oil supplies to Jordan after Riyadh claimed that Jordan had failed to settle outstanding dues, totalling \$46 million.

14,483 cross into Jordan

16,319 leave Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 14,483 people have crossed into Jordan Thursday through various border posts, while 16,319 evacuees left, according to border police sources.

The sources said that 9,407 persons crossed into Jordan through Ruweisheh border post, including 866 Jordanians, 2,941 Arab nationals and 5,600 foreigners. The sources said that 7,352 Arab nationals and 6,237 foreigners left Thursday.

Aqaba Port sources said Thursday that 568 Sudanese people left by sea and air Thursday. The sources said that the number of people who left through Aqaba Port since the beginning of last week totalled 8,026.

Aqaba District Governor Qutun Al Majali said that some 1,032 Sudanese nationals were still waiting in a transient camp along Aqaba shore, and that contacts were underway with the Sudanese officials to arrange for repatriating them.

To help alleviate the problems encountered as a result of the daily influx of evacuees into Jordan, a Dutch cargo plane, loaded with blankets, soap bars, candles and canned foods, donated by the Dutch Red Cross Society landed at Queen Alia International Airport Thursday.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE

MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION/
WATER AUTHORITY
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
TENDER NO. 18/90/SP
SUPPLY OF BLACK STEEL PIPES

1. The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Water and Sewerage Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of 30 km 8" and 12 km 12" Black Steel Pipes.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Black Steel Pipes.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority, Shmeisani, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100, Telex 22439 JO, Fax 679143.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by an eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 200.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in the Conditions of Contract and must be delivered to the above office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday 20/10/1990.

Eng. Mutazz Belbelsi
Secretary General
Water Authority

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجزيرة العربية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Children deserve our best

WORLD attention is focusing nowadays on the United Nations headquarters, where some 70 world leaders will be meeting today for the first time in human history to discuss one subject only — children.

The world summit for children, originally called for by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), provides a unique opportunity for world leaders to unite around one goal, which is children — tomorrow's world and the future leaders and decision-makers.

The summit is aimed at placing children high on the political agenda and giving them the priority they deserve when drawing up national policies or making financial allocations and ensuring their protection at all times. The summit, coming at a crucial time when the children of Iraq and Palestine are denied their basic rights to food, milk and education, and when children of Lebanon and Sudan are killed by armed conflicts or by famine, is called upon to ensure that the decisions made by the great powers do not hit the children of the poor and the most vulnerable.

The summit, which seeks to put an end to the sufferings of millions of children and end the daily carnage of thousands of children who die needlessly because of preventable causes, should also address the effects of political decisions taken under the U.N. umbrella on the children of the world. In this regard, we can recall the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in November 1989. The convention stressed among other things the right of every child to food, water, health services, education and development. Despite this, Palestinian children are still denied the right to education through the repeated closure of schools and educational institutions in the occupied territories. They are also denied the right to grow up naturally, away from the fears and pressures of occupation.

Iraqi children are now denied the right to have enough food and milk, yet the world has not stepped forward to rectify their plight.

It is hoped that this summit would come up with concrete results and world-wide commitment to protect all children, in good and bad times without any regard to their colour, sex, religion, or their countries' political stands on various issues.

Children should be spared all these problems and concerns, and should be kept away from the disputes of the world of adults. Children should be allowed to live in peace think freely and develop naturally, enjoying their full rights to dignified living.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Friday called on the U.N. General Assembly to free itself of U.S. hegemony and to direct its attention towards solving the Palestine question as well as the Gulf crisis. The paper said that by linking the two issues in his initiative Saddam Hussein has displayed to the world that Iraq was for international legitimacy and not opposed to the will of the United Nations but that the United States is doing otherwise. The paper noted that the United States is watching Israel committing terrorist campaigns in the occupied Gaza Strip, but is doing nothing to stop the aggressors. James Baker who has been bragging about justice and international legitimacy is watching the Palestinian homes being demolished and the Israeli occupation authorities committing mass atrocities against the Palestinian people without raising his voice to demand a halt to the persecution of the Palestinian civilians, the paper added. Iraq was right when it called on the United Nations to deal with all the problems of the Middle East because international legitimacy should not be divisible and selective, and Baghdad was right in demanding that Security Council resolutions adopted in 1967 be implemented so that the problems of the Middle East can be settled, the paper noted. It said that the United Nations should now seek to convene an international conference which can supervise the implementation of all these resolutions if peace is to be achieved in our region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that not-Jewish voices in Europe and the United States do not advocate war in the Gulf because they realise too well that war is bound to bring about untold losses for the United States and its interest in that region. Tareq Masarweh says that Jewish voices in Europe and the United States were quick to oppose a peace plan for the Gulf crisis as submitted by the French president to the United Nations because they do not want a peaceful settlement. The Europeans and Japanese realise that the sharp rise in the price of oil is bound to strangle their industries and cause economic recession in Europe and Japan, and they also realise that the massing of troops in the Gulf can by no means force the Iraqis to withdraw from Kuwait, says the writer. He notes that Mitterrand has come up with his plan to safeguard peace and ensure the safety of European interests, something which is not to the taste of the Zionists in the United States. Should Iraq launch a war and succeed in driving away the enemy, the interests of the United States and its allies in the region will be in deep trouble, and should the Iraqi attack fail, at least the oil fields will be devastated and it will take long years to reconstruct them, Masarweh adds. He says in any case, and without a peace plan that can safeguard the interests of all parties to the conflict, the losses will be great for the United States and its allies.

Al Dustour daily said that the anti-American demonstrations in Tehran and other Iranian cities display clearly that the Arabs and Muslims can by no means accept foreign occupation of the holy lands in the Arabian peninsula. The paper said that the renewed call by Iran on Muslims to wage a holy war on the Americans and their allies is a renewed manifestation of the wrath of the Muslims of the world in the light of the current situation in the Gulf and the deployment of foreign forces and Israeli troops to launch attack on a Muslim nation.

By Izzat Dajani

"WE are all stubborn stiff-necked people" was Teddy Kollek's best explanation to Israel's claims over Arab East Jerusalem. Mr. Kollek, the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, is a witness to the fact that Palestinians born under occupation are the very ones demanding Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Their legitimate demands stem from their aspirations to express their identity in a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. However, Palestinian rights, aspirations and legitimate demands are constantly challenged and ignored by Israel.

The Arab-Israeli conflict in general, and the Palestinian-Jewish conflict over Palestine in particular, has been going on for over 40 years, since the state of Israel was created. The conflict is characterised by fear and mistrust. The Israelis claim not to trust the Palestinians as

being truly committed to peace. They mistrust the PLO, its ability and credibility in enforcing a peaceful settlement upon the Palestinian people and the various functions within the Palestinian movement. Sadly, they refuse to admit the legitimacy of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians.

In return, the Palestinians are more familiar than others with Israel and Israeli policy. They are witnesses and victims of Israeli aggression and expansionist policy in the area. Palestinian renunciation of terrorism is rewarded by state-sponsored terrorism by Israel itself. This is best demonstrated by Israel's interventionist policies in Lebanon, Tunisia and the Arab World at large. Israel has self-appointed itself the "police man" of the region when itself is the convict.

While both sides emphasise the rhetoric of mistrust and fear, the Israelis fail to address the issue of reality. The

Palestinians have moved many steps forward in recognising reality and making it dominate their fears. They accepted the call for an international peace conference to implement a final settlement in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Meanwhile, Israel fails, or worse still refuses to see reality. It refuses to deal with the PLO. It insists on the right to appoint its "own" Palestinian negotiators. It wants peace while keeping the occupied territories. Israel's idiosyncrasy is best expressed in the saying: baking one's own cake and eating it.

While Israel ignores the Palestinian paradigm of facing one's own reality, the peace process, per se, remains futile. Palestinians of all ages and from both sexes are constantly and routinely being humiliated by the Israeli occupying forces. Homes are being levelled to the ground for ridiculous and false accusations. People are

being imprisoned without trial and routinely deported. The harshest economic and social measures are being enforced upon the Palestinians. To this grossly inhuman behaviour, the U.S. administration chooses to ignore congressional calls for cutting aid to Israel, the country that in accordance to American laws violates human rights. Instead it continues to contribute \$10 million daily to the state of Israel. Isn't this American double standard? And if not, then America is contributing to inhumanity and injustice and is losing money, taxpayers' money, that could be spent on many worthy causes.

In a recent Rand study, it was concluded that the Arab-Israeli conflict can only be resolved by creating a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. It urged both Israel and the United States to accept this "inevitable compromise." Israeli opposition to Palestinian statehood could prove

very costly and endanger Israeli "security" in the long term, the report concluded. It may be appropriate to add in this context that Israel is a victim of its "surprise" victories in its wars with the Arab neighbours. It is suffering from an ailment best described as "superiority complex." This led to its intransigence whereby it is pushing its luck beyond the threshold of Arab dignity and tolerance. There need not be a reminder that the Arab World never chose Israel as its neighbour. Israel should never forget or ignore this fact and must hitherto come to better terms with itself and envision its future realistically.

In a recent speech, at Harvard Law School, retired General Yehoshafat Harkabi, reflected his dismay with Israel's attitude towards peace. Harkabi, a former chief of Israeli military intelligence, and currently a professor at Hebrew University, said it would be foolish and short-

sighted for Israelis to think and assume that only they have rights over Jerusalem. He stressed that it was in Israel's interest to realise that it was not a custodian of the Christian and Muslim holy places. It simply cannot have peace without trading it for land, including the land of East Jerusalem.

Unfortunately, Israelis assume more positive, moderate and sensible realistic attitudes when they are not in public office and are not answerable to their constituencies and voters. Peace will become more of a reality when those in office, including Mayor Kollek, start speaking the "language" of General Harkabi, or more appropriately, Professor Harkabi.

Still we are left with the constant reminder, best expressed by a Jordanian diplomat, that hte only peace Israel seems to understand is a piece of Jordan, a piece of Syria and a piece of Lebanon.

Coup rumours fuelled by unrest in Soviet army

By Robert Evans
Reuters

MOSCOW — The red-faced colonel glared down the hall at the prime minister of the Russian federation and almost spat out his message: "Don't you dare raise your hand against our glorious armed forces."

The incident last week at a meeting between the radical leaders of the Soviet Union's major republic and the country's military hierarchy was one of many over the past few months fuelling rumours that the army might be considering a coup.

Defence Minister Marshal Dmitry Yazov has publicly denied that the armed forces and any such intentions, and both Soviet analysts and foreign diplomats say they doubt even the most hard-line generals could be eyeing the coup option. "They are unhappy at what they see as growing disorder and the threat of a break-up of the country," said an official of the Communist Party's central committee. "But it's a long way from that to thinking about a takeover."

"Over the past few weeks, Moscow military commentators have pointed to the rapid American buildup in the Gulf following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as evidence that the U.S. remains a real potential threat to the Soviet Union's security."

But there is no doubt that unrest is growing throughout the Soviet officer corps as the country slides from the rigid political and economic system of seven decades towards the type of chaotic free-for-all abhorred by any military mind.

"When are they going to stop this mocking of the army and of our mighty state?" demanded Igor Rodionov, head of the armed forces general staff academy in an article this month in the Russian nationalist journal Molodaya Gvardiya.

General Rodionov's outburst, like many others from senior military figures over the past year, was sparked by an increasing volume of criticism in the free-wheeling Soviet media of the army and the way it conducts its affairs.

Journalists and deputies to the Soviet parliament have accused the military hierarchy of a wide range of offences ranging from allowing institutionalised bullying to outright corruption.

This week a disillusioned general told one Moscow weekly he had been pensioned off at 48 as deputy commander of the country's air defence forces for arguing with Yazov on how to prevent flight accidents killings many young pilots.

Since late 1989, the top hierarchy's concern over the perceived threat to their position as one of the pillars of the Communist system has been compounded by the collapse of the Kremlin's former East European empire.

Echoing hard-line Communist figures now eased from most power positions by Mikhail Gorbachev, one senior general, Albert Makashov, told a Communist Party conference this summer that the president's foreign policies had left the country open to aggression.

Makashov, who commands the Ural military district where many defence plants are located, became a hero among both political and military conservatives, while radicals wondered why Gorbachev took no action against him.

It was one of his senior officers, Colonel Anatoly Kutukov, who issued the warning to Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev at last week's meeting, attended also by Yazov and almost the entire hierarchy of the army, air force and navy.

"Do not touch the military-industrial complex. Do not seek cuts in defence spending," Kutukov told Silayev, whose government is pushing ahead with a 500-day programme to rescue the crisis-ridden economy and switch it to a market system.

The central Soviet parliament is still agonising over the introduction of the programme for the entire country. It sets a reduction of 20 per cent in expenditure on the armed forces as a key measure to slash a huge government budget deficit.

Kutukov, Rodionov and other military figures argue that the West, particularly the United States, maintains an offensive posture towards the Soviet Union despite agreement between Gorbachev and President George Bush that the cold war is over.

Over the past few weeks, Moscow military commentators have also pointed to the rapid American buildup in the Gulf following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as evidence that the U.S. remains a real potential threat to the Soviet Union's security.

But with the opening of Soviet society under Gorbachev's reforms, a new type of officer has emerged at all levels in the armed forces ready to speak out against the views and behaviour of the entrenched hierarchy.

Many have won elections to the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, and to the legislatures of the country's 15 republics, emerging as supporters of radical change throughout society as well as in the armed forces.

A surge of coup speculation over the past two weeks came amid charges from some of these officers that paratroop units with full gear were moved to Moscow in mid-September as public unrest grew in the capital over food shortages.

Yazov and other senior figures dismiss the radical officers, many of whom have been forced out of the armed forces, as a handful of troublemakers. But even Communist officials say they reflect a wider mood.

"Even among the younger generals there is a recognition that the old days are gone," said a senior party member. "Even if some of the hard-liners thought about a coup, I doubt that they could bring their colleagues with them."

'More responsibility not more power'

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

BONN — Only a few weeks ago, nervous neighbours were asking whether a unified Germany would become a fourth reich, a continental colossus or an arrogant power too big for its allies.

Then Iraq tookover Kuwait and the Germans — wary of military action after their Nazi-scarred past — stood back as the West rushed troops and ships to the Gulf.

Suddenly there were urgent calls for Bonn to send money, equipment and even soldiers. A Soviet expert on German affairs suggested big power status for the new state with a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

The Oct. 3 merger of East and West Germany is coming so fast that neither the Germans nor their neighbours are sure: what role the unexpected state will play.

The new Germany, in many respects and enlargement of Bonn's pro-Western federal republic, will be Europe's richest country and second only to the Soviet Union in population.

Its voice will be heard around the globe. Its chancellor will be one of the world's most influential men and its currency one of the strongest.

But how will the people who twice in this century fought and failed to dominate Europe use their new-found power?

Cautiously, most Germans say. "There cannot be another German reich, just as there cannot be another Spanish empire or another far-flung British colonial empire," says Golo Mann, one of Germany's leading historians.

"(The new Germany) will not be a military big power, because it does not want to be one and it would not make sense to be one. European civilisation — and this goes for America and Russia as well — has simply grown out of the age of wars."

"It will be an economic world

power". Helmut Kohl, the Bonn chancellor who seized every chance to hasten a merger as East Berlin's communist system collapsed, frequently reminds Germans they will have to be model Europeans to dispel foreign doubts about them.

"Some people are whispering 'the Germans have gotten too strong', he said last week. There is no other way to fight these fears than to make a convincing contribution to European integration."

In his hesitant response to the Gulf crisis, Kohl announced he wanted to change the constitution so a united Germany could send troops outside the NATO area.

But opinion polls show a majority of Germans oppose any military involvement overseas and Kohl was careful to spell out that troops could only be sent on U.N.-approved missions.

In a move to reassure Moscow, Kohl agreed to cut Germany's armed forces to 370,000 men, keep NATO troops off former East German soil and renounce nuclear arms.

His Foreign Minister, Hans Dietrich Genscher, has begun to set the tone of future German diplomacy by saying unity means "more responsibility, not more power".

In a policy speech last week, he went into great detail about Germany's ties to the West — especially within the EC and NATO — and its growing relations with reforming Eastern Europe.

But apart from reaffirming Bonn's close ties to the United States, he said almost nothing about the rest of the world. The Gulf crisis went unmentioned.

"It is in the Germans' interest to be the best Europeans possible," said a French delegate at a summit between Kohl and President Francois Mitterrand in Munich last week.

"The EC reintegrated them, they became the most powerful member of the group and now they are growing even bigger," he said. "They have no reason to

change their policy". While remaining pro-European, a united Germany straddling the old cold war divide will also encourage the community to look towards the ex-communist east.

The Germans are already the main traders and financiers for countries such as the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, now turning West after decades of communist isolation.

"A united Germany must stand up for these neighbours in the East," says Kohl's Foreign Policy Adviser Horst Teltschik.

"The result could be... a Europe of free democratic states with the same economic order and currency... leading to a united Europe with a federal structure at the end of the road".

Despite general support for these goals, the leaders of a united Germany may need several years to tackle the domestic problems unification will bring before taking a decisive lead on the international front.

"Germany will be weaker at first, not stronger," a European diplomat said. He said the billions of (dollars) pledged so far to

transform East Germany and help Moscow withdraw its troops were only part of the final bill for unification.

"The payoff will come a few years later when the East catches up with the West".

The most visible change after Oct. 3 will be Germany's size and shape. It will have 78 million people, far above Britain, France and Italy in the 55 to 57 million range.

A third bigger than West Germany alone, it will still be the smallest "greater Germany" in history — the German empire Bismarck forged in 1871 stretched across half of present-day Poland to Lithuania and included France's Alsace-Lorraine area.

Mann, son of novelist Thomas Mann, noted the new Germany would be only two-thirds the size of the country he was born in back in 1909.

"My God, how big it was then, how far it stretched... incomparably farther than today," the historian mused in a radio interview. "But that is all gone and we must look to the future and not the past".



LETTERS

Some mid-crisis thoughts

To the Editor:-

The following points are not intended as lessons or even tips for the uninitiated (are there still any of those around?) Rather, they are meant just as simple reminders:

1. The minute a state accepts the first foreign aid dollar, it has kissed its sovereignty good-bye.
2. Just like English law, international law is open for everyone like the Savoy Hotel.
3. America's "friends" in the Middle East are on really very short leashes.
4. Uncle Sam is still tethered by the same very short leash to Tel Aviv.
5. Some Arab-Arab animosities are more intense than some Arab-Israeli ones.
6. One of the sources of international law is the practices of "civilised" nations. Jesus!
7. A good precedent for the present crisis is the Korean war.
8. Watching Henry Kissinger give his "expert opinion" on the Gulf crisis, I couldn't help sighing "God, political 'science' is going down the drains, after linguistics, education and economics."
9. Some circles have expressed dissatisfaction with the way the crisis has been dealt with in the Jordanian press. Man, democracy is a two-way street.
10. The U.S. as a democracy has no control over what is said and written in its press. The censoring is done in Tel Aviv.
11. Why shouldn't Israel stay put, when Uncle Sam is doing all the work and sending its national debt into the quadrillion bracket?
12. George could bomb his creditors out of existence if he got too pushy. He may dub this bombing campaign "debt shield."
13. But first he has to persuade his creditors to foot the bill for this shield.
14. A cashier in a California supermarket once intimated to me

that the U.S. should have a national lottery to pay the national debt.

15. Maybe George got wind of the cashier's proposal.
16. I really can't see why George has sent his troops to the Gulf. One possible explanation could run as follows: George consulted Ron who, thumping his desk furiously, asked Nancy what could be done about those goddamn Iranians.
17. Not bothering to correct Ron, Nancy decided to check with his astrologer in S.F.
18. S.F. relayed the message to Tel Aviv through TV Guide's Emberg of Santa Barbara.
19. Even the most cynical American should be prepared to admit that Saddam Hussein has at least one point to his credit: he does not maintain a \$60 billion personal bank account! The former Emir of Kuwait still does. Other members of his family maintain slightly less than that. Poor things!
20. This is money none of them has worked for.
21. Saddam in one sense is out to get a bunch of crooks.
22. The U.S. is out to protect just this bunch.
23. Pro-rated to U.S. population, \$60 billion would be the equivalent of a cool four trillion dollars of taxpayer money.
24. Think of George amassing such an account! Wouldn't you dial 911?
25. Starving Iraqi children is not a suitable response for Iraq's takeover of Kuwait. There is simply no logical relationship.
26. Taking hostages is unbearably cruel. Driving an otherwise normal person to take hostages is nefarious.
27. George is so impossible! He wants Iraq to fight this war on his own terms.
28. George can kiss good-bye his chances for a second term. No matter what the outcome of this crisis, he will be one of its outstanding losers.
29. So will America, and its entourage of European and other satellites.

Name withheld upon request

Berlin struggles to regain role as German capital

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuter

EAST BERLIN — For 45 years of cold war, Berlin was the capital neither Germany could ever quite have.

The city's division after World War II prevented East or West from laying full claim to a metropolis the history, size and cosmopolitan feel of which were unrivalled in either Germany.

Now at last Berlin has come in from the cold. Politicians, businessmen and tourists are storming this Prussian city of nearly four million on the spree.

From October 3 it will be the official capital of a united Germany, as it was from the age of Bismarck until the demise of Hitler's Third Reich.

Again it can aspire to its 1920s reputation as the vibrant centre of Europe, described by novelist Conrad Albert as "like alcohol, morphine, cocaine, exciting, inspiring, relaxing, deadly: a world city."

Or can it? Four decades of division cannot be erased at a stroke. East and West may cease to be political terms after unification, but Berlin will continue to look and feel like two distinct places for years.

The west's smart apartment blocks and busy boulevards look incongruous next to the shabby tenements and run-down factories of the east. There are still frustratingly few telephone and

road links, and they are overloaded most of the time.

"The ceremonies on October 3 are just for the politicians. Unification on the ground will only get under way after that," a tourism official said. The wall may be gone, but psychological barriers persist.

Berlin is still having to fight for its right to be a full capital. The problem this time is not ideological rivalry but a small town on the Rhine.

Bonn, unkindly nicknamed the "federal village," has served as West German capital since 1949 on the understanding that it was merely deputising for Berlin.

Bonn's Mayor Hans Daniels told Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as much, months before Communism collapsed in the East last year. Now, with his back to the wall, he is taking a very different line.

Daniels argues that moving the government to traditionally leftist Berlin will overcentralise Germany, erode its federal structure, and cost up to 100 billion marks (\$64 billion). Several of West Germany's powerful state premiers, fearful for their prerogatives, share his misgivings.

Conservative Bonn, which has grown faster as capital than in any other time in its 2,000-year history, won a breathing space when the unity treaty between the two Germanys named Berlin as capital but left open where the government should sit.

Berlin accuses Daniels of parochialism and says the move would cost less than 10 billion marks (\$6 billion).

"Berlin... is the only place which equally represents both parts of Germany, east and west," the city's two mayors, Tino Schwierzina and Walter Momper, said in a joint statement.

The Brandenburg gate, long a prisoner of the Berlin wall, is once more the symbol of German unity.

Opinion polls show few West Germans feel much affection for sleepy old Bonn, a "one-company town" of 300,000. But diplomats say some foreign governments would be reassured if a resurgent, unified Germany kept its modest headquarters on the Rhine.

The dispute seems trivial compared to the global crises Berlin endured during its division. The superpowers clashed repeatedly over its status. If the cold war ever turned hot, the chances were it would do so in Berlin.

This continual tension, begun with the Soviet blockade of West Berlin in 1948 and sealed with the building of the wall 13 years later, created a claustrophobic atmosphere.

With generous subsidies, West Berlin became capitalism's ultimate showcase — an affluent enclave deep inside "enemy" territory, closer to Poland than to the West — a postwar hangover

still garrisoned by "occupying" allied troops.

It was a haven for dropouts, punks, anarchists and artists attracted partly by exemption from military service.

West Berlin was a multicultural melting-pot but also a microcosm of West Germany's social problems with a huge Turkish immigrant population, squatters and smog. It was a capital city in search of a country.

East Berlin, on the other hand, was declared capital of the German Democratic Republic but always coveted and competed with its glamorous sister to the west.

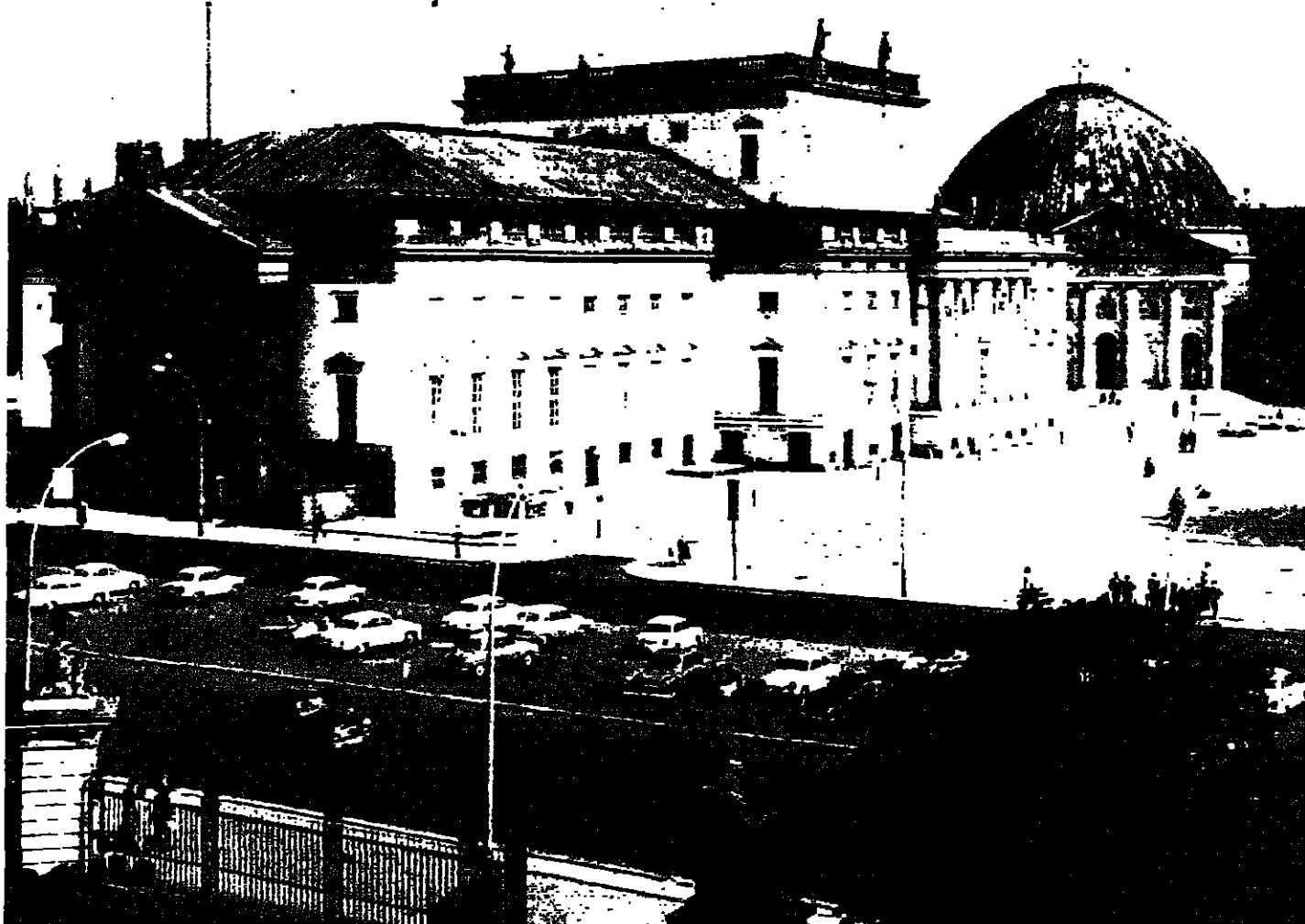
It projected itself as the most go-ahead city in the East Bloc, a mixture of classical Prussian buildings and shimmering modern architecture with hotels, restaurants and nightclubs.

But a short walk from the imposing city centre, crumbling facades and uncleared wartime bomb sites told the real story.

In many ways, the opening of the wall was a cruel shock for East Berliners who realised how shabby, even provincial, their vaunted city was in comparison to next door.

The tumultuous changes that followed have brought further confusion as rich Western businessmen, Polish bargain hunters and Romanian beggars have flooded in.

The lure of history in the making has also drawn swarms of



Berlin Opera House — symbol of the city's cultural and historical role in German life (Fle photo)

tourists. Hotel rooms are scarce, prices have soared, traffic chokes the streets.

Crime, including racist vio-

lence, is on the rise and the gap between rich wessies and poor ossies has increased social tension and fuelled right-wing extremism.

Berlin's special qualities, so long dictated by political circumstance, are disappearing and many residents fear the city will

soon be just another noisy, dirty capital. West Berliners call it the price of freedom.

Cyprus — still divided on 30th anniversary

By Bouli Ghinis
Reuter

NICOSIA — Independent for 30 years and divided for more than half of them, Cyprus is a small island with a big problem and mixed feelings about a birthday party.

Greek Cypriots in the prospering south will celebrate with a parade on Oct. 1, stressing their governments' international standing.

Turkish Cypriots on the other side of the green line will ignore the event but have chosen the same day to emphasise their ties with mainland Turkey, which invaded the North in 1974.

Rauf Denkash, whose mini-state in the north is recognised by no country but Turkey, calls the festivities in the south "a great folly".

"I don't see what we are celebrating," says Christakis Katsambas, editor of leading Greek-Cypriot newspaper *Philetheros*. But President George Vassiliou, whose government controls two-thirds island, will take the salute at a military march-past in southern Nicosia, flanked by foreign guests.

The actual date of independence was Aug. 16, 1960. It is celebrated in October to avoid the summer heat.

Guerrilla war by Greek Cypriots in the 1950s brought an end to British colonial rule but failed to win them their dream of union with Greece.

Instead, the Eastern Mediterranean island became an independent state with a complex constitution intended to protect the rights of the Turkish-Cypriot minority. Both communities lived island-wide before the 1974 invasion when refugee movements concentrated Turks in the north and Greeks in the south.

The 1960 arrangement was guaranteed by Britain, which kept sovereign bases on the island, Greece and Turkey. But it was widely seen as a temporary compromise. Communal fighting and political disputes soon paralysed much of the constitution.

Turkey's invasion followed a coup in Nicosia backed by the military Junta then ruling Greece.

Most Greek Cypriots had by then lost their pre-independence enthusiasm for union with Greece, but Ankara saw the coup

as a serious threat to the safety of Turkish Cypriots.

"We got off on the wrong foot," says Kate Clerides, daughter of veteran politician Glafos Clerides and an aspiring politician in her own right.

"No one wanted independence back in 1960. So we started out all wrong. It is a paradox, because now, we are committed to independence, but one third of the country is occupied," she told Reuters.

While Vallilou reviews the Oct. 1, parade in the south, Denkash and other leaders in the north will be welcoming the prime minister of Turkey, Yildirim Akbulut.

U.N.-sponsored talks about reunification are stalemated over whether the 160,000 Turkish Cypriots are a distinct people with the right to self-determination, as Denkash insists, or an ethnic minority sharing their nationhood with the 600,000 Greek Cypriots as envisaged by the 1960 constitution.

Superpower cooperation in the crisis over Iraq's takeover of Kuwait also gives Greek Cypriots hope that a revived United Nations might be better able to undo

the result of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus.

"I am optimistic. I think Cyprus will eventually be a united island. After all I never thought Germany will be united in my lifetime," said Kate Clerides.

While the island appears no closer to reunification, the Greek-Cypriot south takes comfort in economic progress, based largely on earning from 1.3 million tourists a year, and aspires to join the European Community.

The northern economy has lagged far behind the south's since 1974.

"In the past 30 years we have developed an economy, a society and a political system which has allowed us to apply for EC membership," a highly-placed Cypriot official told Reuters.

"This is no minor achievement," he said.

Cyprus' only woman MP, writer Rina Kanselli, a refugee from Turkish-held Kyrenia, says of the independence anniversary:

"I think we should be using this opportunity to brief the world on the continuing occupation. And we must do some serious soul-searching."

Soviet warning

(Continued from page 1)

embassy in Moscow on Soviet-made weapons used by Iraq.

Moscow said he was personally involved in assembling for the United States a package of information about the weapons, the Post reported.

Moscow has been chief of general staff since December 1988, subordinate only to Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov and President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Post quoted him as saying the Kremlin had quietly withdrawn nuclear warheads from potential ethnic trouble spots around the country.

Moscow said the Soviet leadership recognised an obligation to ensure complete security over nuclear weapons.

His comments were the first Soviet confirmation of Western reports that the Kremlin had taken extra measures to safeguard the world's largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in view of internal instability.

Carter deplores approach

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has predicted that war is more likely to break out in the Gulf because the United States and its allies seem unwilling to negotiate with Iraq.

Speaking to a group of Atlanta businessmen, Carter said: "Chances are that a war is going to break out unless there is some wisdom and reticence in dealing with Iraq) to let (it) withdraw from Kuwait without losing face."

But Carter said he sees no indication that the Western powers intend to enter talks with Iraq. "Our government and others involved with us do not appear to be prepared to talk, negotiate and exchange ideas."

Carter said that if "international sanctions and pressure exerted by the world community," do not convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait the likely outcome is "all-out attack."

"There are some voices that have suggested that Iraq should be destroyed," he said.

Carter said that he concurs with an assessment by William Crowe, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that a war with Iraq would be "a devastating catastrophe" for both sides.

U.S. pledge to Israel

Israel has been assured of a strong response from the United States if it is attacked by Iraq, two leading U.S. newspapers reported Friday.

The New York Times said in a front-page report that U.S. officials had told Israel in recent days that any Iraqi attack on the Jewish state would set off a vigorous American response.

The Washington Post, quoting diplomatic sources, said the United States had assured Israel that if it was attacked Washington would stand by its commitment to Israeli "security" and retaliate against Iraq, even if that required force.

The papers said assurances

were given by Secretary of State James Baker when he met Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy in New York Wednesday.

Iraq meanwhile issued a dire warning about "the coming fire," saying war in the region would extend to oil fields, Israel, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states.

The government newspaper Al-Jomhuriya said "the battle arenas would be multiple and the fires would devour all oil fields, the Zionist entity and agents of America in the region."

"The invaders and their traitor stooges and Zionists who are adding oil to the fire to ensure their aggressive presence on the Arab land bear full responsibility for the coming fire," the newspaper said in an editorial.

It said Iraq, "which is standing in the forefront of the Arab Nation and the Islamic World for ousting foreign occupation forces from the sacred Arab lands and restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, is ready to offer all sacrifices that guarantee non-submission to the hegemony of American imperialism."

The Iraqi News Agency said President Saddam Hussein plans a speech Sunday, the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed.

The agency did not indicate what the message might be, but said he would address a Baghdad rally with the theme: "Holy war is the duty of all believers to purge the holy shrines of occupation."

Another Iraqi newspaper, Al-Qadisiya, accused Israel and Egypt Friday of setting up an intelligence station to pick up data on the movement of Iraqi troops (see page 2).

Iraq meanwhile assured Western diplomats in Baghdad that it was not threatening to hang them for sheltering foreigners in their missions. Western governments had seen the "threat" in a vote reminding envoys that hiding foreigners was a capital offence.

In Washington, Iraq's Ambassador Mohammad Al-Mashat denied that any threats have been made against diplomats in Iraq and Kuwait.

"We're not threatening anyone," Al-Mashat told reporters after a meeting at the State Department.

Later, U.S. officials said Al-Mashat said he was unaware of the "warning" notes' existence. The department released this text of the Iraqi note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

"Revolutionary Command Council resolution No. 341 dated 8-26-90 stipulates that housing a foreigner for the purpose of hiding him or her from the authorities is a crime of espionage. The punishment of death shall be imposed on the individual who commits such a crime.

"The ministry will appreciate it if the esteemed mission would kindly inform the ministry of whether any of its citizens or any other nation's citizens are residing in the mission's embassies and your diplomatic residences, whether or not these citizens have contracts with the government or are working with foreign companies operating in Iraq."

Israelis raze homes, shops

(Continued from page 1)

who are currently destroying Bureij."

Military sources said troops overnight demolished a home in Gaza's Beit Hanoun village that belonged to a suspected activist.

They said the man had tried to bomb a military patrol in June. Motor traffic, radio and television broadcasts and all work cease for 25 hours from Friday night and the rare motorist who ventures on to the roads risks being stoned. Rabbis repeated an

annual appeal to Jews not to harm ambulances or security forces travelling on the sacred day.

Local newspapers headlined a report in the Wall Street Journal saying this year's alert was intensified following warning by Iraq to attack Israel if Iraq were strangled by U.N. sanctions.

They quoted the Journal as saying Israel had mobilised 55,000 air force reservists and was moving armour and artillery on the Golan Heights.

Cheney: Crisis coming to a head

(Continued from page 1)

of our interest in thwarting Iraq's aggression is open-ended. How long it will require U.S. military force to keep that commitment is a question that nobody can answer today," he said.

"We are there as long as we need to be there," he declared.

Regarding the eventual size of the growing U.S. presence, Cheney said that sending any forces requires sending large forces. "We've got an obligation to send enough forces... so that we don't leave them exposed at the end of a long supply line," he said.

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Finance ministers say world able to withstand Gulf crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Finance ministers have concluded their annual meetings with assurances that the global economy can weather the impact of the Gulf crisis with sensible strategies and a little help from friends.

One of those policies is to pass along oil price increases to consumers, said Michel Camdessus, director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The impact of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of oil-rich Kuwait and the consequent rise in oil prices dominated weeklong sessions of the IMF and the World Bank, which ended Thursday.

Officials of both lending organizations expressed worries about the possibility of a global recession connected with the crisis.

Oil prices hovered around \$40 a barrel Thursday, even though U.S. President George Bush announced release of five million barrels from the United States' strategic reserves a day earlier.

Meanwhile, the World Bank signalled it may lack sufficient resources to handle the economic shocks of the crisis, including oil price hikes, displaced workers, and loss of exports for some countries.

Both institutions pledged help for countries suffering the brunt of the economic impact, but support figures have yet to be worked out. Some officials stayed behind to discuss specifics of a multi-billion-dollar effort under

the leadership of the U.S. treasury.

"Countries will suffer from the Gulf crisis, but this is manageable as long as (debtor nations) follow good policies and the international support matches the efforts of the countries themselves," Camdessus said Thursday.

'Cloudy' prospects

While opening the annual meetings, Camdessus had described world prospects as "cloudy". At the close, he said, "there is a silver lining."

Camdessus said the consensus of finance ministers is "that the challenge demands a firm policy response from all members, and the widespread acceptance of the view that oil price increases should be passed through to consumers."

'Front-line' states

Camdessus also said the leaders agreed on a collective responsibility to assist the "front-line" states of Turkey, Egypt and Jordan in the Gulf crisis as well as economically hard-hit developing countries.

A World Bank report listed Morocco, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Sudan as other countries that would be seriously affected by an international trade embargo against Iraq.

World Bank President Barber

Conable said that if oil prices remain high over the next three months, the bank likely would not have sufficient resources to cushion the impact on developing countries.

Conable said he then would seek approval from the countries that make up the bank's board of directors to establish a special fund for voluntary contributions from oil-rich nations and others.

The money would be used to provide no-interest loans to needy nations.

"If the price of oil stays up and there continues to be turmoil and uncertainty and an impact on the global economy, clearly it will have a major impact on significant parts of the developing world," Conable said.

His comments, made at a news conference Thursday, represented a departure from an earlier stance that the World Bank did not need to create programmes and could handle the crisis with existing resources.

Finance ministers from 154 member nations attended the IMF-World Bank meetings, in addition to a delegation from the Soviet Union, the only major power without membership in the sister institutions.

Both Camdessus and Conable said they held discussions with the visiting Soviets but indicated that it would be some time before the Soviet Union would qualify for membership.



Ahmad Zaki Yamani

Oil prices could go \$100 a barrel

LONDON (Agencies) — Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the former Saudi Arabian oil minister, Thursday said oil prices would go beyond \$100 a barrel if Saudi oil fields were damaged in a Gulf war.

But he also said there would be a price crash if the crisis were resolved peacefully and high stocks held by oil companies and governments were not drawn down.

Oil prices were about \$40 a barrel Friday.

"It will go over \$100 a barrel," if Saudi oil fields are damaged, Yamani said in response to a question during a meeting with a small group of reporters.

Yamani said it was unlikely that Iraq would be able to damage Saudi oil fields, though such an eventuality could not be ruled out.

He also said a peaceful solution leading to a price crash would probably be followed by a meeting of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil ministers who would attempt to bring a price fall under control. Nonetheless, oil prices would end up substantially lower, he said.

The former Saudi minister, who left office in late 1986, said in case of a prolonged crisis with no effort by oil companies and governments to reduce stocks, prices would go up to \$60 a barrel.

Saudi Arabia is producing about 7.5 million barrels a day and, probably, could produce about 7.7 million, he said.

If oil companies would draw on their stocks "we can reduce the price," Yamani stressed.

Buying spree

Yamani said there was no economic reason whatsoever for a buying and stocking spree and consequent rise in prices.

The former Saudi official, who founded and heads the London-based Centre for Global Energy Studies, said his centre estimated the world had 99 days of oil stocks.

He projected a price of \$32 to \$35 a barrel if stocks were reduced to 96 days, and \$21 to \$22 a barrel if stocks were reduced to 90 days.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris requires its member countries and their oil companies to keep a minimum of 90 days of stocks.

West unlikely to tap strategic oil reserves

Energy agency seeks emergency response to counter oil shortage

PARIS (Agencies) — The International Energy Agency (IEA) opened one of its most important meetings ever Friday, seeking to clear the way for a quick emergency response in the event of a serious oil shortage.

During a luncheon break, members of the British delegation said the governing board was not planning to call for the release of strategic petroleum stocks.

The agency represents 21 industrialised countries, including the United States, which this week decided to tap its strategic petroleum reserves for the first time by selling five million barrels of oil from its reserves.

The Britons said no other IEA country currently plans to take similar action.

The delegates said early stages of the meeting focused on ways to improve the agency's response mechanisms. They said these measures may vary from country to country depending on the level of strategic stocks available to each.

Most official Western oil stocks are held by the United States, Japan and West Germany.

One IEA official said Thursday that the agency, created in 1973, wanted to "clear the decks" of regulatory and logistical obstacles

that would impede an effective response to a severe oil shortage.

The OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) countries have eaten up their surplus capacity, so now there's no cushion if things get worse," said the official, speaking on condition he not be further identified.

U.S. President George Bush Wednesday ordered the sale of five million barrels of oil from the nation's strategic reserve, which contains 590 million barrels.

Bush administration officials said the move was a test to see if the system could work in an emergency. But observers here considered it likely the Americans would press for similar action from other IEA members, particularly West Germany, with 97 million barrels of reserves, and Japan with 245 million barrels.

"We don't see the urgency of pressing them so hard right now," U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins said Thursday. "Worldwide stocks right now are above the norm."

European community officials were meeting to discuss their view.

West Germany and Japan, two major oil importers, have also said they opposed an immediate

Five million barrels would not affect prices

Bush's decision to tap reserves raises questions

NEW YORK (R) — President George Bush's decision to sell five million barrels to oil out of America's strategic reserves was seen as a shot across the bow of the oil markets and analysts doubted Thursday it would have much impact on prices any time soon.

The move to dip into the 590 million-barrel strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) was announced late Wednesday in a bid to slow soaring oil prices, but was viewed as a token gesture aimed at warning that the economy cannot withstand oil price increases at current levels.

Five million barrels of oil represent only about a third of the petroleum processed in a single day in U.S. refineries and is less than a third of the 17 million barrels consumed in the United States every day.

Thursday's oil markets largely ignored the announcement with prices continuing to soar on the New York mercantile exchange. Crude oil for November delivery hit \$40.10 a

barrel in early trading, the highest in 10 years.

The market remained fearful that war would break out soon in the Middle East.

In Washington, Energy Secretary James Watkins Thursday asked congress for permission to test the SPR by drawing down the oil rate of up to 500,000 barrels a day.

"Washington is sending a message to the market," said Richard Marose, analyst at Prudential-Bache, but George Friesen, oil analyst at Deutsche Bank Group, added that "to have a significant impact on the market, something more than a token is required."

Oil prices have nearly doubled since Iraq seized Kuwait Aug. 2, lifting retail petrol prices by an average \$0.235 to \$1.31 a gallon, according to a recent American automobile association survey.

The move by Bush marks the first time the emergency reserves have been tapped since it was established in 1975,

two years after the Arab oil embargo. The SPR holds its reserves in Texas and Louisiana salt caverns.

Analysts said Bush was unlikely to order a full scale withdrawal of the reserve without assurances other nations would dip into their own stockpiles.

"If we were to use the SPR in a sustained way it would only be in coordination with other members of the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA)," said Cambridge Energy Research Associates' President Daniel Yergin.

The IEA's governing board of 21 oil importing nations met in Paris Friday to discuss whether members should tap their respective stockpiles to counter soaring world oil prices.

So far, officials from Britain, Germany and Japan have said they have no plans to sell oil from their government reserves

Washington tries to control dispersal of funds

U.S., Japan clash over channelling of funds for front-line countries

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Japan clashed over how to channel money to countries hardest hit by the Gulf crisis at the first meeting of a group of donor nations, international monetary sources said.

Washington, eager to retain as much control as possible over international efforts to help such countries as Egypt, Turkey and Jordan, wants to set up a pool of funds it would manage for that purpose.

Tokyo is resisting, worried about being left open to U.S. pressure to provide more and more funds, and wants the World Bank to play a leading role, the sources said, Thursday.

President George Bush announced Tuesday the formation of a task force to channel funds to the front-line states that encircle Iraq and to other countries suffering badly from the financial fallout of the Gulf crisis.

Washington and Tokyo were divided at the first meeting of the group Wednesday but agreed to try to thrash out their differences quickly.

The compromise, if worked

out, would set up a U.S.-led donor group to provide emergency aid quickly and also create separate World Bank-led groups that would coordinate mid-term aid policy for individual countries, the sources said.

"Japan wanted to set up such an international aid group on a country-by-country basis because situations differ widely from one nation to another," one source said.

A group of 16 donors, including major industrial nations and oil-rich Gulf states, discussed ways of channelling funds to nations hardest hit by the economic fallout of the Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. They did not decide how much money might be needed at their first meeting Wednesday.

Tokyo pledged earlier this month that it will provide \$2 billion to the front-line states and other nations hit hardest by the crisis.

It said \$600 million of that will be made available immediately to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey on a bilateral basis, but it will decide when and how the remaining \$1.4

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, September 27, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	656.0	660.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	477.4	480.3
Pound Sterling	1226.8	1234.2	Dutch guilder	371.2	373.4
Deutschmark	418.5	421.0	Swedish crown	113.8	114.5
Swiss franc	302.9	305.9	Italian lire (for 100)	36.0	36.3
French franc	125.0	125.8	Belgian franc (for 10)	203.3	204.5

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Madeline Tabar
In
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3:30, 6:45, 8:45 | 10:45 P.M.
2- MONEY MANIA
5:15, p.m.

Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571

Fuad Al Muhandes,
Mohammed Subhi,
Iham Shahin
In
ADOLESCENCE
SITUATION
(Arabic)
Performances: 12:50, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

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Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

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LADIES AND
MADEMOISELLES
(Arabic)
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30 10:30 p.m.

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Russian democratic group plots to seize power, Pravda says

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party daily Pravda Friday condemned what it said to be a democratic group's plot to seize power, and radical politicians feared the article could foreshadow a government crackdown.

Pravda said a group called the "Russian Democratic Forum" drafted a "programme for action-90" that seeks "the elimination of the CPSU from the political arena, the breakup of its ranks and nationalisation of its property." CPSU is an abbreviation for the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The report added to a series of rumours that began with talk that the Soviet military was plotting to seize power. The rumours then shifted to the theory — officially denied — that the military would move against democratic forces allegedly plotting to take over strategic points such as power stations, television offices and railway terminals.

The rumours have surfaced in an atmosphere of confusion in the Soviet political scene, frequent protests and increasingly hard economic times.

President Mikhail Gorbachev referred to the troubled times Friday in a Kremlin meeting with

Jack Welsh, president of General Electric.

"It really is an exciting time, so exciting that people are completely confused. We must be excited to galvanise the whole country or we will not get out of this vicious circle. ... The command system has almost completely fallen apart," Gorbachev said.

In the Pravda article — appearing on the front page and titled, "What 'Democrats' Are Preparing" — historian Y. Makhrin says the "programme for action-90" is "destructive, permeated by a spirit of intolerance and lack of acceptance of those unsuitable to its authors." He calls for a legal study of the document because of its calls a violent overthrow of the state.

Little is known about the "Russian Democratic Forum," which supposedly drafted the plan in July. The Moscow newspaper *Leninskoye Znamya* said Friday it was formed by some members of the Russian People's Front, a grassroots political movement.

Other democratic leaders distanced themselves from the group at a news conference Friday.

"We want to act strictly within the framework of the law and observance of law and order," the Inter-Regional Deputies Group and the Democratic Russia Parliamentary Opposition Group said in a joint statement released at the news conference.

Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov, a member of the Interregional Deputies' Group and a radical economist, told reporters that "extremists" were planning disruptive actions for Soviet Constitution Day, a state holiday, on Oct. 7. He said they were trying to provoke conservatives and prompt a government crackdown.

For whom is it generally advantageous to spread rumours about a plot? In the existing situation, only conservatives and extremists are dreaming of destabilisation," the statement said.

Mikhail Potomkin, a member of Democratic Russia, told reporters a "wave of provocations" including demonstrations, strikes and calls to smash windows is possible on Oct. 6 or 7.

"We don't want any demonstrations or strikes," Potomkin said.

groups said such actions would "play into the hand of those who would like to find some kind of plot, to have a pretext to introduce a state of emergency in the country and devastate democratic forces."

Pravda underscored its concern for the alleged threats with a second article about possible trouble in the Ukraine. It said "forces that call themselves 'democratic' are getting ready for a coup."

"They all have their own programme, their own aims but they are united by their anti-Communist direction, their desire to do away with the CPSU — the only obstacle on their way to the often adventurous goals," Pravda said in an article from Kiev, the Ukrainian capital.

Gorbachev is now armed with new powers he could use to snuff disruptive forces. On Monday, the Supreme Soviet legislature gave him the authority to issue decrees to rescue the collapsing Soviet economy and ensure law and order.

He issued his first directive Thursday, ordering businesses nationwide to fulfill supply contracts and the government to ensure distribution.



Millions of street children around the world struggle to earn a meager living.

Meeting on children casts spotlight on bleak lives

MEXICO CITY (R) — World leaders at the United Nations this weekend discuss the plight of needy children like eight-year-old Miguel who ekes out an existence on a busy Mexico City street corner by washing cars and juggling.

Miguel epitomises the fate of millions of youngsters throughout the Third World, under focus at the U.N.'s first world summit for children in New York.

Seven days a week, homeless Miguel washes windshields by day then dubs himself in grease-paint to juggle at night before collapsing on a pavement to sleep.

He lives a hand-to-mouth existence, earning just enough to feed himself although he always goes to sleep hungry. He said he never thinks about the future.

"It's hard and sometimes very cold, but I'm usually so tired I sleep pretty well," he said in an interview.

Boys and girls like Miguel appear everywhere in Mexico City's smog-choked streets, cleaning windshields, juggling, hawking newspapers, or working as "trapezists," the human flame-throwers who spit gasoline onto a burning torch in return for tips.

Thousands of other children prowl Mexico City's fetid open-air garbage dumps alongside rats in search of recyclable goods.

Social workers estimate Mexico has up to 15 million homeless children.

Malnutrition or a lack of medicines killed 1.1 million children under five years of age between 1982 and 1988, according to Andrea Barcena, the director of the independent Mexican Centre for Infant Rights.

"The facts are so horrible that people sometimes think we're making them up," she said. She

said some estimates show 500 children under the age of five die in Mexico every 24 hours.

The international spotlight is expected to fall on the bleak lives of such children around the world when more than 75 heads of state meet at the U.N. Sunday and Monday to discuss an urgent need for long-term solutions to a problem experts say threatens the future of Third World nations.

According to statistics from the United Nations Emergency Children's Fund (UNICEF) at least 40,000 children around the world die for lack of medicines that cost only a few pennies per child.

Like Miguel, every day 150 million children under the age of five go to bed hungry with little hope of a better tomorrow.

Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who will address the opening session Sunday, has referred repeatedly to his concern about Mexico's needy children and pledged to eradicate extreme poverty.

But critics say free-market policies favoured by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Mexico and other Third World nations struggling to strengthen their economies have contributed to the plight of the poor and forced children like Miguel to live on the streets.

"It's a farce. We're either with the IMF or we're with the kids. We have to break the circle of poverty and the policies of the IMF," Barcena said, calling for an increase in spending on social programmes.

Leaders at the summit are expected to ratify an accord on children's rights, but social workers said there was little hope of a quick solution to the suffering of millions of children currently living homeless and in poverty.

Burmese troops raid foreign embassies

BANGKOK (AP) — Burma's military government sent troops into the compounds of the U.S., West German and British embassies and detained Burmese employees for interrogation, a diplomat said.

Troops entered the West German embassy compound 10 days ago and have taken similar action against the U.S. and British embassies a number of times previously.

The diplomat, who spoke at a news conference in Bangkok on condition he not be identified further, did not say why the troops had entered the embassies or where most of the employees were arrested.

He also reported that arrests and intimidation of dissidents was widespread and worsened significantly over the past month.

"The situation on the human rights front is abysmal," the diplomat said.

He added that an oral protest over the embassy raids and human rights abuses was jointly presented to the government last Friday by the 12 members of the European Community, plus Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States.

The protest, delivered by Italian Ambassador Giorgio Bocco, was to make clear that the countries did not accept the military junta "as the legitimate government ... (and) that we are not simply going to look at the Middle East crisis and forget about Burma," the diplomat said.

They said Burmese employees of the U.S., British and Australian embassies had been detained for questioning, some for several days.

One employee was taken from home by military intelligence officers, held in jail for four days and questioned about the embassy's view of Burmese politics, he said.

The employee reported being held in the cell next door to Kyi Maung, the 72-year-old acting leader of the National League for Democracy. Kyi Maung was arrested this month for allegedly breaking the official secrets act.

Arrested with Kyi Maung were his deputy Chit Khain and four senior party members in the central city of Mandalay. Aung Sai Sun Kyi and Tin Oo, the party's two main leaders, have been detained since July 1989.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States strongly protested the detentions to Burmese officials in Washington and Rangoon.

"We regard such harassment as a serious contravention of accepted international behaviour and as totally inconsistent with international law," he said.

Boucher said Burmese officials detained and interrogated four Burmese employees of the U.S. embassy about embassy operations and personnel. He gave no further details.

Poland to hold early presidential polls

WARSAW (AP) — The lower chamber of parliament has passed a measure that would allow first free presidential elections since World War II to be held as soon as Nov. 25.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has already declared his candidacy to replace Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, who is stepping down early.

Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a former adviser and ally of the Solidarity leader, is considering opposing Walesa and is expected to announce his decision next week. A candidate must be nominated by a party or collect 100,000 signatures to get on the ballot.

In recent months, there have

been increasing calls for Jaruzelski — the former Communist Party leader — to step down and on Sept. 19 Jaruzelski asked parliament to shorten his term of office.

The election law, passed 268-12, authorises the speaker of the parliament to set a date for elections in as quickly as 60 days. A second round of elections is possible if no candidate gets 50 per cent in the first round.

Under a constitutional amendment approved Thursday, the president will be elected in a general ballot and may serve up to two five-year terms.

Jaruzelski was elected to a six-year term as president in July 1989 by a joint session of the

Sejm, or lower house, and the senate. But Jaruzelski was elected in the last weeks of Communist power in Poland, and calls for his resignation increased after Mazowiecki's government took over.

The election law bans financing of the campaign from foreign sources and campaigning 36 hours before election day. Deputies rejected a proposal to bar campaigning at churches and other religious sites, a common activity in Poland.

Both the election law and the constitutional amendment must receive approval from the senate and the president, but that considered perfunctory.

Serbia adopts new constitution

BELGRADE (R) — The parliament of Yugoslavia's biggest republic Serbia adopted a new constitution Friday, further reducing the autonomy of troubled Kosovo province and risking a backlash by ethnic Albanians.

Serbian legislators overwhelmingly approved the constitution which stripped Kosovo of all attributes of statehood defined under a 1974 constitution and reduced the powers of Kosovo's regional parliament and government.

More than 50 people have been killed since March 1989 in protests by the majority ethnic Albanians in Kosovo against earlier cutbacks in the self-rule of the province, which is part of Serbia. Serbia had already made inroads into Kosovo's autonomy last July when it dissolved the provincial parliament and government after ethnic Albanian deputies declared independence.

Kosovo has long been a focus of ethnic friction between its 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and 200,000 Serbs and Montenegrins. The ethnic Albanians want more autonomy but the Serbs regard the region as the cradle of their culture.

The new constitution, adopted at a televised session in Belgrade, guaranteed Kosovo "territorial integrity" but ethnic Albanian opposition leaders have sharply criticised it for reducing local autonomy.

Serbia, which is controlled by Communists, was expected later to set a date for the first free elections in the republic since World War II.

The northwestern republics of Croatia and Slovenia dumped Communist rule in free elections last spring and Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are scheduled to hold elections in November.

Texts of the constitution were not immediately available but it was expected to lay the ground for multi-party elections in Serbia, where opposition parties have staged several big anti-Communist demonstrations this year.

Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency said the constitution defined Serbia as a democratic republic, pledging the equality of all people's rights. It dropped the word Socialist and other ideological attributes.

It strengthened the powers of the republic's president, placing the leadership with one person rather than the current collective presidency.

The constitution pledges loyalty to the federal Yugoslav state but contains a provision that Serbia can "turn its back" on the federation if the republic was threatened, Tanjug said.

The clause would appear to allow Serbia to secede from the rest of Yugoslavia.

Several thousand Serbs have erected barricades around a town in the Republic of Croatia to demand greater ethnic rights, Zagreb Radio reported Friday.

The radio said the Serbs, a minority ethnic group in Croatia, used rocks and trees to block roads around the town of Petrinja, about 70 kilometres east of the republic's capital Zagreb.

It appeared to be the first major protest by the Serbs since they sealed off several towns in southern Croatia last month to demand fair treatment by the Croatian authorities.

Canada wins approval to expand Senate

OTTAWA (AP) — Using an obscure constitutional provision, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney received permission from Queen Elizabeth II to appoint eight partisan senators to help push through a controversial tax.

The new lawmakers, who serve until age 75, bring the Senate to 112 seats and give Mulroney's Conservative Party a majority in both the Senate and House of Commons.

The new members were sworn into office by the Senate clerk late Thursday, but will not take their seats until the chamber resumes work next week.

An opposition leader called Mulroney's move "an abuse of power" and legal challenges loom. The only other similar request was in 1873, but the appeal was not granted.

The nation's 1867 constitution

allows the British monarch to add four or eight members to the Senate on a request by the governor-general, the Canadian representative to the Commonwealth.

Mulroney used the measure as a last resort to save the 7 per cent goods and services tax, stalled in the Liberal-dominated Senate. The Commons, dominated by Conservatives, supported the tax.

The proposed consumption tax would replace a 13 per cent tax paid by manufacturers. Some basics, such as groceries, would be exempt from the tax, but it would affect even such services as a haircut.

Mulroney said the debate goes beyond the tax proposal to the principle of whether the elected Commons should prevail over the appointed Senate.

Soviet Union joins Interpol

OTTAWA (AP) — The Soviet Union Thursday became a member of the International Police Agency, Interpol, the TASS news agency reported from the organisation's general assembly here.

In a one-sentence report from Ottawa, TASS said, "at a session of the Interpol General Assembly that opened here Thursday, the Soviet Union became a member of this organisation uniting more than 150 countries."

But Interpol Secretary-General Raymond Kendall was quoted by Canadian press as saying the Soviets had applied to join Interpol and, "never in history has an applicant been refused membership."

Kendall made his remarks at Thursday's opening of the 59th General Assembly of Interpol, with the Soviet delegation attending.

"By the end of the year, all these countries (in Eastern Europe) will be in," Kendall added.

Czechoslovakia and Poland, which have emerged in the past year from Communist rule as new democracies, are joining this year, he said.

Yugoslavia, a Communist country not considered part of the Soviet Bloc, is an Interpol member, though Kendall said much of Eastern Europe has been "an empty space on the map for us."

Would Soviet membership make a difference in the international fight against crime?

"Oh yes," Kendall said, mentioning as an example possible drug routes through countries in which Interpol has had little previous contact with police.

About 500 delegates from 150 countries were present for the opening speech by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney but absent was Kuwait.

Kendall said Kuwait had told Interpol it would attend the meeting. But an aide was unable to say whether Kuwait's reply to the invitation had come before or after the invasion.

Both Kuwait and Iraq are Interpol members.

Delegations were seated alphabetically, with Iraq's Faisal Hussein, minister-counsellor at the Iraqi embassy here, next to the Iranian delegates. The Israeli members were nearby.

Asked how he felt about Kuwait's possible attendance, Hussein said: "so what?"

Home of U.S. general broken into in Brussels

BRUSSELS (AP) — Two assailants broke into the home of a U.S. Air Force general assigned to NATO and overpowered his guard, but the general was outside the country at the time, the U.S. embassy said.

Belgian television station VTM, quoting an unidentified source, described Tuesday night's incident as an attempted kidnapping or murder.

The break-in occurred at the suburban home of Gen. John W. Douglass, deputy U.S. representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) Military Committee, an embassy statement said.

U.S. officials refused to speculate on the motive for the attack, but one NATO official, demanding anonymity, said, "it's certainly not being taken lightly."

NATO sources said security has been tightened because of the incident. They did not elaborate.

The break-in comes at a time of uneasiness about potential terrorist threats stemming from the military tensions in the Gulf region.

On Wednesday, ambassadors of the 16 NATO nations discussed the possibility that radical groups aligned with Iraq would launch attacks against the allies.

The Douglass break-in was not mentioned at the meeting, one official said Thursday.

According to the U.S. embassy statement, a man in what looked like a police uniform forced his way into Douglass' home Tuesday evening.

Gunman shot dead to end siege in California bar

BERKELEY, California (AP) — A "deranged" Iranian gunman with a hatred of blond Americans died in a burst of police bullets Thursday, seven hours after he stormed a bar, killed one man, wounded seven people and took 33 hostages.

Six officers stormed Henry's Public House and Grille in the Durant Hotel after police negotiators decided they couldn't talk the gunman out of the bar, said Lt. Jim Polk.

"We decided there was no other way," said Polk.

He said the gunman, identified by University of California, Ber-

keley, spokesman Ray Colvig as Mehrdad Dashti, gave away his position inside the bar by using one of the terrorised hostages as an intermediary in talking to police by telephone.

"Every time the hostage would have to ask a question of this bad guy, he would have to turn around and look at him and this gave us a good idea of where he was," said Polk.

Seconds after the burst of police gunfire around 7:30 a.m. (1420 GMT), hostages, some of whom had been forced to sit in the windows of the bar as shields, ran from the hotel.

COLUMN

Carter, Gonscher to receive Onassis Awards

ATHENS (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher were named as recipients of the 1991 Onassis Foundation Awards for their contributions to man and society. Two other awards go to Greenpeace International and prominent Cypriot archaeologist Professor Vassos Karageorghis. The awards were announced by Ioannis Georgaklis, president of the Lichenstein-based Onassis Foundation set up under the will of the late Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis. The foundation honours the memory of Onassis, '23 year old son Alex, and killed in an airplane crash at Athens airport in 1973. Georgaklis said Carter was chosen to receive the Aristotle Prize because of his "personal involvement and valuable contribution in bringing international disputes into the realm of international peacekeeping efforts and for establishing the 'Carter centre' to support education, human rights and humanitarian activities that seek to ameliorate the effects of hunger and disease mainly in the developing world." He said Genscher would receive the Attila Prize for being a "decisive factor in the shaping of today's East-West relations, part of which is the unification of Germany."

2 10-year-olds set record in Alcatraz swim

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two strong 10-year-olds have become the youngest to make the 1.5-mile (2.4-kilometres) swim from Alcatraz Island to the city. Pat Reid completed the swim in 62-degree Fahrenheit (16.7-degree Celsius) water in just under an hour Monday to break the "youngest swimmer" title set in 1955 by John Hunter, then 14.

Pat was greeted by 73-year-old George Farnsworth, the oldest swimmer to challenge the treacherous Alcatraz currents. "You finished strong," he said. "You broke an hour. Your legs all right?" "Oh, yeah," Pat said. "They're in good shape." Eighteen minutes later, he was joined by Emma Macchiari-Mankin, who last year became the youngest swimmer to cross the Golden Gate. Both youngsters were accompanied by their fathers, who matched them stroke for stroke, and by escort boats.

No home for Chernenko's bust

MOSCOW (AP) — Officials in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk want a bust of former Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko removed from a city square, but they can find no takers, a newspaper reported. The likeness of the predecessor to Mikhail Gorbachev was erected in the city about 3,250 kilometres east of Moscow after Chernenko was awarded his third "hero of Socialist labour" title, the *Trud* newspaper reported. But the Krasnoyarsk City Council decided to dismantle the bronze bust, saying that "established procedure" calls for such monuments to be erected in the recipient's birthplace, *Trud* said. That would be quite impossible in Chernenko's case, *Trud* noted, since the village of Bolshaya Tes, where he was born, is now underwater because of a dam built for the Krasnoyarsk hydroelectric power plant. The residents of the town of Sharypovo, about 220 kilometres west of Krasnoyarsk, don't want the bust either, *Trud* said. Until recently, Sharypovo was named for Chernenko, but it was since been given its old name back. The Krasnoyarsk City Council decided to put the bust in a cultural museum, but can't move it there until Kremlin authorities rescind the decision that placed it in the square in the first place.

16 jailed for life over Aquino murder

MANILA (R) — A Philippine court on Friday found an air force general and 15 other soldiers guilty of the 1983 murder of politician Benigno Aquino, husband of President Corason Aquino, and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

The court said the 16 were guilty of conspiring to kill the former Philippine opposition leader when he flew home from exile in the United States to challenge the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

But in a 177-page verdict the court failed to settle the question of who ordered the killing of Aquino, shot dead as he stepped off a China Airlines jet at Manila Airport.

President Aquino avoided

direct comment on the outcome of the drawn-out case, in which 20 other people were acquitted including former Tourism Minister Jose Asprides who is now a member of congress. But she criticised the slow pace of justice in the Philippines.

"As the widow of Ninoy (Benigno Aquino), I do have very strong feelings about the verdict. However, my position as president prevents me from expressing my true feelings," she declared in a statement.

But Benigno Aquino's brother, senator Agapito Aquino, said he was "contented with the decision, even if they got the triggerman but not the mastermind."

"But the mastermind is now resting in peace," he added, re-

ferring to Marcos, who died exactly a year ago in exile in Hawaii.

The court identified constable Rogelio Moreno as the gunman who pulled the trigger behind Aquino's head while he was coming down the steps from the plane under military escort. He was among the 16 given life sentences.

Vice-President Salvador Lamel said the court had failed to pinpoint the mastermind. "The case therefore remains unsolved," he said.

Among those who were indicted, but are yet to be tried is Marcos' former chief-of-staff, General Fabian Ver, who fled with Marcos into exile in 1986 and cannot be found.

AIDS — the worst is yet to come

ATLANTA (AP) — The AIDS crisis is getting worse and not better, with an estimated 8 million people worldwide now infected, international AIDS experts and American's top health official have said.

"This is still a very new pandemic," said Dr. Jonathan Mann, director of the International AIDS Centre at Harvard University, speaking at a worldwide AIDS symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. "The worst is yet to come."

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan again defended the government's AIDS programmes. "We are doing a lot more than most realise, and much more than any other nation," he said.

The conference, which continues through Saturday, is sponsored by the Morehouse School of Medicine, where Sullivan

served as president, and the government's research centres in minority institutions.

Mann cited projections saying at least 8 million people worldwide are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. That includes an estimated 5 million infected people in Africa and 2 million in the Americas. U.S. health officials estimate that 1 million people are infected in the United States.

A comparatively low 600,000 people worldwide actually developed AIDS in the 1980s, Mann said.

"We are just beginning to experience what this pandemic will bring," Mann said, a pandemic is an epidemic over a large region.

"There is clearly going to be a wave that makes the experience of the '80s look relatively small — at least a 10-fold increase."

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